

## Edw. Nothdurft Contributes

I'll give you a little of my own history. I came to Harrold, May 20, 1885. It was quite a change from Germany to Harrold; we were two weeks on the ocean. The Indians used to go in tribes in 1885. I had to walk three miles to school and received about four months schooling a year.

I worked out herding cattle north of Harrold when twelve years old. I herded sixty head of cattle, always on foot, for which I received board and clothing that summer. The next year I herded cattle at home most of the time. My brother or sister were with me; we used to milk cows when we got thirsty.

From then on I worked out here, there, and everywhere when I did not go to school. The years of 1888 and 1889 were tough. I remember the 'blizzard of 1888. I think in the year of 1889 we all worked in the field. This includes mother and sister; we pulled the flax out by the roots on about twenty acres. It grew in patches; it took us about two weeks to finish the job. Dad would come every night with a stone boat and haul it home. Some of it was destroyed by the neighbors' cattle; we received a few dollars damage. That same winter we had no meat except jack rabbits; it took two jacks a day. We also had no potatoes; just bread and jacks.

In spring we had relief which consisted of one pail of salted herrings, one sack of flour, and one pair of shoes. From that winter on it went a little better; the men got some work. In the year of 1894 I worked as a section hand on the railroad where I worked 14 months in three summers. I paid \$10 a month for board and washing, and \$20 for rent at home. That left me about \$2 to \$3 for my clothing.

The last summer that I worked there I blew myself for the first suit of clothes for the big sum of \$6. I was then twenty-one years of age. From then on I worked on stock ranches until 1902 when I filed on a homestead in Webster township. This has been my home for forty-eight years. In the winter I worked for \$8 to \$10 a month.

## Chris Bronemann, A Cattleman

My father came here about 1904, living two years in Hyde county before locating in Webster township in Hughes. He came from Monticello, Iowa. His wife was Annie Riggles and they were married before coming to South Dakota. She passed away in October, 1936. Their children are Albert, Claribel Harris, Carl, Raymond, Glen and myself.

-William Bronemann.

## Butte Breezes

John Eisemann and Paul Kepstine were among the first settlers in this township. John was a squatter on the SW1/4 of section 3 which he subsequently acquired by homestead, before the Indian trouble with settlers.

John and Paul herded cattle during the summers until the numerous settlers made extensive cattle raising difficult. Paul remained in the ranch business until his death in 1894.

John Eisemann was married on April 4, 1894 to Carrie Peterson of Harrold. Her father was Peter Peterson who filed and lived on section 12 in Bretton township in the fall of 1881.

Albert, Magnus and John Enstad settled in Butte district in 1895. Magnus was married on October 16, 1901 to Ida Marks of Highmore. They still make their home in Butte.

Pat and Joe Davis are pioneers here, arriving about 1892, and still remain ranchers with fine herds of horses and cattle.

Ray P. Pool lived in Butte for a number of years on the place vacated by Paul Dubro a couple of years ago. He taught school at the Snake Butte school, sometimes called the "Steiner" school. It was located near the cheese factory, a modern plant built by John Steiner.

Allie De Wolfe operated quite a ranch near the reservation in this district. The place is now operated by Robert Morrison.

The first term of school in Butte was held in 1901-02 in the Peter Peterson home. Mrs. Maude Hammer Latta was the teacher. The first school house was built in 1905 on section 8.

Peter Peterson was a half brother of mine. He reached Hughes county in 1889 as the railroad pushed into this territory. He homesteaded in Bretton along with Rich Garrett, Capt. Latta and my father, Peter P. Enstad. I taught school here in 1902-03.

-Magnus P. Enstad.

## A Resident Near Harrold

Henrikus Krull was born Dec. 27, 1861, in Strakholt, Germany. Died May 6, 1932. He came to America in 1881 and settled in Grundy County, Iowa. He went to school some to learn the English language. He was married to Reenstine Claassen at Sibley, Iowa, Mar. 14, 1894, where they lived for 5 years before moving to South Dakota, settling in Clark county and later moving to Kingsbury county. In 1907 he came to Hughes county and took up a claim 9 miles southwest of Harrold.

Reenstine Etta Johanna Claassen was born Nov. 17, 1869, in Grosz Medium, Germany, and died Oct. 7, 1934.

She and her sister, Mrs. Kate Petersen of Harrold, came to America in 1891. Going to St. Louis, Missouri, where they lived 2 years, then moving to Grundy county, Iowa, where she met Mr. Krull.

-Mrs. Albert Burki, a daughter, Blunt.

A large number of friends and neighbors were in attendance at the funeral of Henry Krull Sunday to pay their last respects to one who was an old settler here. The Krull home has long been noted for its

hospitality and many a traveler has received food and shelter there. Mr. Krull will be greatly missed by all who knew him and the family has the sympathy of the entire community.

The passing of Mrs. Krull has removed one of Webster township's long time and highly respected citizens. No doubt Mrs. Krull has extended hospitality to more people, both friends and strangers, than any other resident of this locality as the latch string was always out at the Krull home. The sympathy of the entire community is extended to the family at this time.

From Harrold Journal

## Claus Erp, A Hardy Pioneer

Claus Frederick Erp was born in Holstein, Germany, in 1857. He came to Dakota in 1883. He took up a homestead in Webster township, Hughes county. In addition he filed on a preemption and tree claim. He did his first breaking with two mules, one horse and one ox. Some team! One mule was handy to shake hands with his hind legs; Claus became mad one day and threw an axe at the mule, nearly cutting off the mule's foot.

About 1886 and 1887 lie walked to the Black Hills four times; the last time he rode a pony back. He was working in Fall River county as work was scarce near his homestead. After that he went to Wisconsin and worked in a lumber camp two years. After returning he looked for water on his land. He dug one well alone, 25 feet deep; he pulled the dirt up from the bottom and had a device for dumping it. He also let himself up and down in the well by hand. Mr. Erp then spent two years in a Washington lumber camp. On his return he stopped at Clark, S. D. and bought some cattle which he drove home afoot. He seemed to get ahead raising cattle and horses and went to Iowa where he married Mrs. Christina Jessen in 1900. Besides being busy on his ranch Claus found time to make extra money by making hay and other such tasks or neighbors. He accumulated considerable property by thrift and industry in the live stock business; he never raised grain for market but fed what he raised on the place. He had one of the best built up farmsteads in the county. The house cost \$7500, without the excavating and gravel hauling; it is modern in every way.

He lost \$1800 in the First State Bank of Harrold. In 1888, January 12, he nearly lost his life in a blizzard. He became cold and bewildered but happily ran upon a little tree which he recognized, and going from tree to tree he reached his house. These trees were planted in rows four feet apart by John P. Nothdurft.

On Dec. 7, 1929 he left for that haven where troubles are unknown. He was a member of the Lutheran church. He was 21 years of age when he came from Germany, therefore he could read and write German. He had 5 children: Frank Erp, Lilly Erp, Henry, Herman and Hannah Jessen. Burial was made at Harrold.

## What Happened to Mr. Charles Brekke

Charles Brekke was born in 1872. His life has been one of romance and adventure.

When he was a boy South Dakota was wild and wooly, especially Hughes County, in the days of the saloons when it was not uncommon for four or five men to be knocked out with beer bottles in one night. In the nineties when Mr. Brekke came to Canning it was quite a large town.

In 1897 some horse thieves rustled about twenty head of Mr. Brekke's thoroughbred horses. Charles and his brother tracked the horses clear up into Sully County where they found the horses.

When Mr. Brekke started farming he was very unsuccessful, if it wasn't drouth, the grasshoppers were so thick that they hid the sun; therefore, he didn't raise many crops. Charles has killed ninety-nine rattlesnakes in one day while working.. He also saved his brother from being harmed by a rattlesnake.

-James Forney.

## Henry H. Brekke

Henry H. Brekke was born in Norway. He and his wife came to Pierre in 1881 and ran a Feed and Grocery Store. To this union was born eight children, four boys and four girls. In 1882 he filed claim on Home Place midway between Blunt and Canning. He continue i to operate his store. He enlarged his business by dealing in livestock. In his store he furnished dressed meat, eggs, and cream, (he milked several cows.)

In addition to Home Place, he had property and lived in Pierre. He didn't farm, although he ran many cattle and horses and developed quite a ranch. In Pierre he ran a Meat Market and Bakery. He was chairman on the Valley School District for several years.

Charles Brekke, his son, who lives 6 miles N. W. of Canning lost his mother, Mrs. Henry H. Brekke, in 1920. It was during a March storm. She slipped and fell out side and was unable to get up and get back in the house. It was night and her presence from the house was not noticed at once. Her right hand was frozen and gangrene set in.

Charles was married in 1905 to Kate Reassumes and they located 22 miles north of Highmore, in Banner township. They sold out there in 1918 and have since lived in Hughes county; most of the time in Canning township. He had six children-four girls, two boys. Charles engaged in a number of occupations, such as, railroad work and farming, etc.

He has seen several floods on Medicine Creek which mounted up to the railroad grading. On Sunday, June 5, 1892, S.W. of Harrold at the Peter Enstad place occupied by Charles Brekke, storm clouds were seen to gather in the northwest. It proved to be a cloud burst and water came down in vast quantities. He had two pure bred Durham bulls

staked out on the opposite side of the creek and he swam over to release their picket chains. Midway he stopped to rest himself by holding on to a bridge which washed away while he was thus resting. He succeeded in releasing the bulls satisfactorily and crossed the stream by hanging on the tail of one of the animals as it swam across the stream.

K. M. Foote lived one mile south of Medicine Creek in the same locality. They were at the home of a neighbor, John O'Donnell, and started home. Mrs. Foote, Myrtle, Bert and the baby were in a buggy. It upset in the creek and all were drowned. The bodies were found a mile down stream. When they were buried K. M. Foote had to be held; he wanted to jump into his wife's grave.

-Chas. Brekke.

## Mrs. Harris In Texas

I am sure that all living here who knew the George Harris family before they moved to Texas (about 1914) will welcome word as to how they have fared since reaching the Lone Star state. I visited their home first when stationed at Ellington Aviation field, Houston, at Christmas in 1918.

They purchased a historic 2000 acre ranch belonging to a nationally known mathematician and philosopher named Montgomery. Elizabeth A., his wife, was a niece of Marshal Ney, of France. She was the first noted southern sculpturess. Their home, called "Liendo," was a confederate camping ground in 1863-64. The mail and trading point is Hempstead. Before I knew of the Harris location in 1918 I wandered one Sunday near San Leon a few miles from where I was stationed and was attracted to an old graveyard where time and age had toppled a number of the tombstones awry; my eyes popped as I read an inscription, "Captain Peter Trumbo, 1st S. D. Cavalry." This referred to the grandfather of Mrs. Harris, formerly Laura Trumbo.

Four times since 1918 I have visited at the Harris Texas home, once for a week 4 years ago with my family. Their plantation has about 20 tenants, each caring for a small tract of land. Watermelons are raised mostly and without irrigation as it is in a favored region about 40 miles north of Houston. The place is a mecca for tourists interested in history.

We are sure that Mrs. Harris would wish to be remembered to her many friends up in Dakota. Her husband, George, died in 1935.

-Charles Lee Hyde.

## The Raber Tumbleweed

We are indebted to Mrs. C. G. Mathews, of Miller, for the June, August and November issues of THE RABER TUMBLEWEED for 1918. This publication was issued for a period during the World War by some of the patriotic citizens of Raber township. We find this editorial staff

listed: Editor, Grace DuBois; Reporters, George Mathews, John Kinyon, Lucile Potter, Conrad Cooper, Laura Keyes and Florence Nole. Cartoonist, Judd Keyes; Secretary-Treasurer, Cecil Cooper.

They list the boys in service who received THE TUMBLEWEED: Norval, Kenneth and Fred Cooper; Edward J. and Frank Mathews; Grant Sylvester; Frederick Steiner; Douglas Junkman; Arthur Mayer; Samuel Gardner Peterson; Rudolph Steiner; Clark Dristy; William A. Blake; David W. Junkman; Milton Hausman; Ray Grove; Wade Wilson.

This four-page publication carried news from the home folks, with plenty of jokes to make the boys happy and with articles loaded with encouragement for homesick soldiers.

These sheets are becoming yellowed with age and need tender care so we are dispatching them back to Mrs. Mathews with our thanks for the loan of them.

-Bert L. Hall.

## C. G. Mathews and Family

In 1907 C. G. Mathews moved from Howard to Hughes County with his family and located at Arnott. Gottlieb Geiger owned the land and he operated a small store and postoffice. This was purchased by Mr. Mathews who continued to operate the same. Mrs. Will Congdon was the only child of the Geigers.

There were ten children in the Mathews family, six of whom are alive as this is written in 1937. They are, James, Great Falls, Montana; Tom, Pierre, S. D.; Frank, George, Edward, Miller, S. D.; Laura, (Mrs. Mike Hogan), Pierre.

Tom, who has a responsible position as field man for the Kansas City Life Insurance Company, has given the writer much encouragement in the promotion of this publication. He is a firm believer in the value of permanently preserving the history as handed down by the pioneers. He is convinced that Hughes county is overlooking an asset by neglecting to have an Old Settlers Association. He will be one willing to help promote such an organization when there is sufficient interest among the old timers. Such groups in other counties have accomplished much by way of annual picnics, gathering and preserving old records and in marking historic spots.

-B. L. H.

## The Blake Family

Mr. and Mrs. Frank M. Blake, originally from Bremer county, Iowa, came to Hughes county in 1906 to live on their homestead; they had filed on a quarter section of land in Butte township.

As they had several head of cattle, the fine buffalo grass was attractive, and they planned to make the homestead their permanent home.

Five of their eight children were living at home at this time. One son also took government land adjoining his father's claim, which gave the advantage of more grazing land and water.

Mr. and Mrs. Blake believed in education. The two youngest children attended the grade schools of Hughes county when the school-houses were not the comfortable modern buildings of today. A great number of the teachers were from other states, especially those farther east.

Stock-raising was profitable but farming was not so successful, so after living on their homestead for about eleven years, they moved to Pierre, later buying a home.

The Blakes lived in Pierre about 9 years, but their last years were not spent in Hughes county. In the spring of 1927 they went to Beadle county to live with a son who was farming there, but they later moved to Huron because of failing health.

Mr. Blake passed away Aug. 13, 1935 and Mrs. Blake lived until June 20, 1936. They were buried in the cemetery at Highmore.

-Laura Blake, Pierre, South Dakota.

## By An Old Timer

I came to Blunt on April 1, 1884 at the age of six years with my widowed mother, a young brother and sister. My mother brought an emigrant car containing a team, cow, chickens, farm machinery, and household possessions including a maltese cat and kittens.

She came intending to file on a homestead and expected to make it our home but found all desirable land within 19 or 20 miles of Blunt was taken. We resided in Blunt and waited for the opening of the Winnebago reservation which was about 18 miles south of town. It was finally opened by Pres. Chester Arthur when she placed a filing along Chapelle creek and had a house and fence built. Pres. Cleveland closed the reservation again and evicted all settlers which of course ruled us out. We then made Blunt our home for several years.

On July 4, 1884 Blunt held a celebration. It was very cold for this time of year and we kept a fire in the stove all day. There was a war dance of 500 braves in all their glory of war paint and feathers and not much else. They were accompanied by their families which were large in those days. It was a most awe inspiring spectacle to the Easterners. A number of us had come from Lincoln, Ill. and had settled in a colony.

A big prairie fire raged through the counties of Potter, Sully and Hughes from the Missouri on the west to the James river on the east and pretty thoroughly devastated the entire region. There were no relief agencies to help out in those days but lots of supplies of food, clothing, fuel and some money from the East helped to relieve suffering.

I remember the first session of the legislature held in Pierre and our Civil Government class came over and attended a session held in the original State House.

I married Will Potter in the spring of 1895 and made my home with him on a ranch on Chapelle creek where we resided for many years. We had a number of Indian neighbors which we liked as well as any we

had. We moved to Pierre in 1919. It was a change to get away from the ranch life. The country was well adapted to the stock business and Blunt and Harrold were big shipping points.

We will never forget the pleasant associations and the strong community spirit which prevailed in the Chapelle neighborhood. Social occasions, Sunday school and occasional church meetings make those years linger as a pleasant memory.

I have lived now in Stanley county for the past 7 years but still cling to Pierre as my favorite trading place and my "home town" and retain my church membership there. I still hope to see the country return to its past glory and many more prosperous years.

-Mary Condon Potter.

## Reminiscences of Ranch Life

A ranch, hidden among the hills,  
A sunset, that awes and thrills,  
Cattle lowing, along the creek,  
Coyotes yapping, so sly and sleek.  
Horses, running down to drink  
Quails calling, and bob-o-link,  
Camp-fires, smouldering in the breeze,  
Tents pitched, near a clump of trees.  
Branding-irons, hanging near the gate  
Cowboys, settling down to wait,  
Saddles thrown down in careless array,  
Lariats ready for use next day.  
Six-shooters oiled and hung on a peg,  
Water found, to fill the keg.  
Bacon, sizzling, in a pan-  
Coffee boiling, in a can.  
Pictures, fading with the light,  
Stars shining, o'erhead at night,  
Memories only of days that are past,  
Regretful always that they could not last.  
-Maud Kirley Keyes, Piedmont, S. Dak., July 6, 1935.

## Crow Creek Reservation

Note: Mrs. Keyes was the wife of Judd Keyes; they were pioneers near Giddings. After Mr. Keyes died, the widow and sons, Burrell and Lowell, moved near Piedmont. Laura Doeden, a daughter, with her family lives nearby. Another daughter, Alice Bartlett, lives at DeGrey. Joe Kirley, one of the "firsts" at Pierre, was Mrs. Keyes' father.

## Mrs. Joseph Not Afraid Bear

Mrs. Joseph Not Afraid Bear was born at Medicine Rock near the *Cheyenne* Agency about 1846. When she was a year old her mother died.



When she was 16 years old, while riding a horse near Faulkton, she was shot through the hand and the pony which she was riding was killed.

She was married when 19. After her marriage she and her husband went to Bismarck, North Dakota, to make their home. To this union was born 9 children, Mrs. Jennie St. John, being the eldest. All of the rest of the children are deceased.

Mrs. Not Afraid Bear can remember when the Travois was in common use among the Indians.

Her husband is buried in Stephan, Hyde County.

Mrs. Not Afraid Bear makes her home with her daughter, Mrs. Jennie St. John on Reynold's Creek, near Joe Creek P. O.

-Nov. 13, 1936, Mrs. Edw. Little Eagle.

## A Friend of Indians and Whites

Lou Oakley Gregory was born Sept. 29, 1866, at Fairfax, Iowa, and passed away at St. Mary's hospital in Pierre on April 20, 1935, after a week's illness from pneumonia, at the age of 68 years, 6 months and 21 days.

The deceased came to South Dakota in the year 1902 filing on a claim in Hughes county southeast of Arnott and has since made her home in that vicinity and in the Big Bend. She was married to William Gregory in 1903, who still survives her. She was known to relatives and friends as Aunt Lou and was a very likeable woman, always willing to help any one in need. She joined the United Brethren church when a girl and later became a member of the Episcopal church at Joe Creek and always took an active part in church and Sunday school activities.

Besides her husband and close relatives are a sister, Mrs. M. T. Skinner of St. Lawrence; two brothers, Charles of Manchester, Iowa, and James of Spangle, Wash., and a stepmother residing at the latter place. She was preceded in death by both parents, two sisters and two brothers.

Burial was made in the I. O. O. F. cemetery at St. Lawrence beside her sister, Belle, following funeral services at Harrold and St. Lawrence conducted by Rev David W. Clark. Thus has passed another of the faithful sturdy pioneers. May this Christian have the deserved reward following a career filled with frontier hardships.

-March 25, 1935, Harrold Journal.

## The Big Bend

In the prosperous days the Big Bend comprising the southern portion of the county was a paradise of productiveness with its nutritious grasses, prolific hay crop and fields of grain. Farming was not carried on extensively until after the World War. J. F. Schenegge, P. T. Hansen and the Gregg brothers were among those who did extensive tractor farming. Principally this region has been used for live stock raising. In the early '80's the Federal Government used the area for holding beef cattle for the Sioux Indians. Henry L. Jones and his brother-in-law,

Antoine De Grey had much to do with the handling of these cattle for a number of years. The latter died on Chapelle Creek and was buried on a hill east of De Grey postoffice, which was named for him.

About the old timers! My mother, Many Tracks, told about being taken to old Ft. Sully when it was established in 1863 along with a number of other peaceable Sioux who were taken there by General Armstrong for safety. She was only ten years old then. Her father was Standing Buffalo. She stayed in that vicinity until 16 years old, when she married Wm. Gilland, an officer; they settled near the Bad River mouth. William and Joseph were born there; Mary was born when the parents lived near Cedar Island; John (myself) was born above Ft. Thompson. Later my mother married Charles Barry about 1874. To this marriage was born Mary (Campbell), Catherine (Ross), Lucy (Fallis), Charley. This boy was killed by a horse in 1912 when his foot caught in a saddle stirrup. He was rescued in the clump of timber near the Wm. Dougherty buildings. He was 14 years old.

Mother said two Sioux women were scalped by Rees as they went to get water at the river; this was during the encampment at old Ft. Sully. One of them lived for quite awhile after being treated by an Indian medicine man.

St. John, a Frenchman, died before I could remember. He had two sons, Pete and Joe, both still residents of the Big Bend. His widow married D. K. Howe. George Howe and Mrs. Wm. Walker were their children. Later she married Mark Wells, a half-breed. Mark was occupied mainly as an agency interpreter. He was an uncle of John S. Wells, for many years a bonanza cattle man in Buffalo county. Sarah La Croix was Mark's sister. Mrs. Wells lived with her daughter, Mrs. Walker, until her death some months ago.

Sargent was an early settler and had two sons, John and Steven. Amos Arrow first lived at the mouth of Chaney Rush creek. He is one of the few Indian men still wearing long braids. Levi Big Eagle came here later than some of the others, yet has lived here a long time. George Corey, father of Mrs. Big Eagle, was an Englishman. Mrs. Big Eagle has been an invalid with rheumatism for a number of years. Henry Jacobs came here prior to 1890. He had been a student at Hampton Institute. His children, Willie, Ruth, and Reuben, are still alive. Ruth is Mrs. Frank Black; Willie is in Mass. in YMCA work; Reuben has a good position in the New England states. Leo Rabbit is another Bend Indian. Amos Shield was here in 1884 and with his wife still dwells below the Charles Arch ranch. His mother was Walks With Iron. Tom White came about the same time and is a cousin of Amos. His wife was Odelia Agard. They have a reputation for being neat and thrifty. William Dougherty and wife came about 1894 following the issuing of allotments starting in 1892-93. His wife was Louise Ward. Both are dead. Dog Cloud and Run All Around lived not far from the Dougherty ranch and were cousins. Both are dead.

-John A. Barry.



Indian Woman Tanning A Hide

### Pocket Items

Mrs. Not Afraid Bear, a Lower Yanktonian Sioux, was born near Bismarck, in N. D., 95 years ago. Her husband was the son of Chief White Bear whom she married when 19 years old. She remembers some of the peace treaties made between the Indians and the Government. She believes that 1936 was the driest and hottest summer of all her lifetime.

Edward Little Eagle, age 70, belongs to the same tribe. He once lived on the James river and remembers there was a Medicine Stone on a mound along that river. Only one person (Indian) could interpret the messages as revealed by this Stone. He would translate the messages to his people, such as "Buffaloes are near." Out in this country in these dry years we have no Medicine Stone to tell us that rain is coming, crops can be raised, or there are buffaloes to eat.

Bill Walker has been here about 30 years; Benny St. John was born here about 51 years ago; I came here 25 years ago.

-John Middle Tent, 1937.

Boss Farmers at Gov. Station, Big Bend-

Michael V. O'Shea; Jim Wells; Frank Kirk;-Bliss;-Ansted;  
George Boesl; Fred Fleury.



### **Center of South Dakota, in Hughes County**

### **Extracts from "My County"**

By Marian Porter-1933

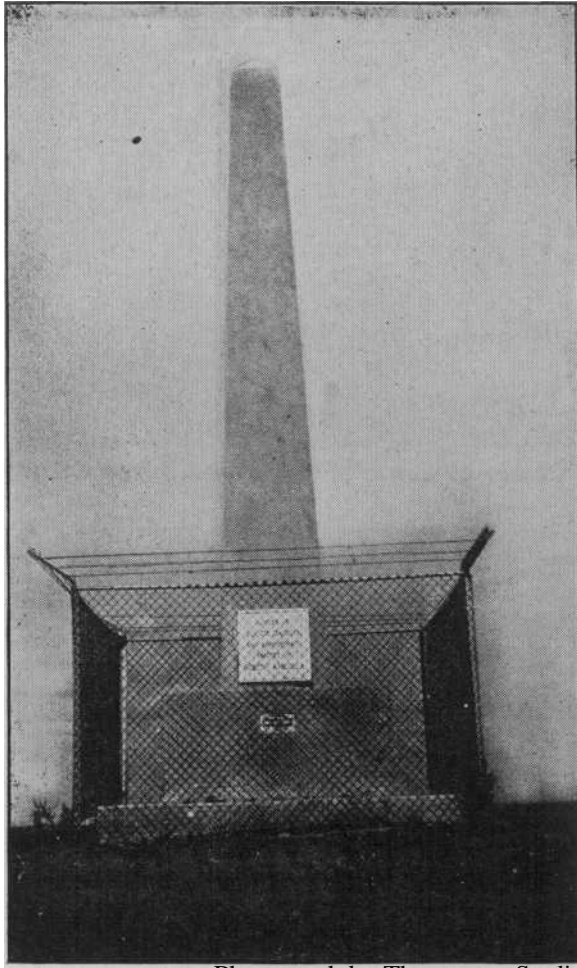
My county marks the center of a great state within the heart of a great continent. What location could promise a better background for interesting history and development? It abounds in Indian legends and historical facts, from the beginning of the exploration of the region, which dates from the earliest Missouri River navigation, to the present time.

Hughes County lies in the exact geographical center of South Dakota. It is bounded on the north by Sully County, on the east by Hyde County, and on the south and west by the Missouri River. Its area is approximately 765 square miles and its population . in 1930 was 7,006.

In 1855 General Harney wintered two cantonments of soldiers in Peoria Bottom about eighteen miles above Pierre. An officers' house was built then and still stands at the Joseph Pitlick place. However, these buildings were abandoned in 1856.

In 1907 the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad completed a railroad bridge across the Missouri River. Before this was completed all traffic had to cross the river in ferry boats or on nature's \_ bridge of ice. A highway bridge was completed in 1926. This was a memorial to Stephen R. Riggs and sons.

We have other memorials in our county. A massive monument to the soldiers of the Grand Army of the Republic is located near the statehouse at Pierre. A granite monument marks the site of old Fort Sully about a mile east of Pierre Indian School. On the summit of Snake Butte stands a monument that marks the center of South



Photograph by The                      Studio  
Center Monument, 5 Miles North of Pierre,  
Built by Chas. L. Hyde, Sr. and Dr. Doane Robinson

Dakota and the approximate center of North America. A bronze tablet upon Medicine Knoll near Blunt is in commemoration of the first Independence Day celebration in South Dakota, held July 4th, 1839, by John C. Fremont and his soldiers at that point. At the present time a Memorial Building to the soldiers of the World War is being constructed near the Capitol in Pierre. (Note: It is now completed and open to the public.)

## Monuments

L. K. Fox

The Lewis and Clark expedition of 1804-1806 has been given three monuments or markers in the state. The first was placed at Spirit Mound near Vermillion by the D. A. R.; the second west of the Missouri River near Mobridge by the Hickory Stick organization in special recognition of the services of Sakakawea, the Indian woman; and the third was built on Farm Island, Pierre city park, in 1935. Monuments to this expedition may be properly built all along the course of the Missouri river in South Dakota.

### Markers Put on Medicine Butte

Early last year a geodetic survey tower was constructed on the top of Medicine Butte, near the big snake, and was used to establish a definite and unchangeable location for all future geographic reference. It was a part of a chain of points being established all the way across the United States by the United States Department of Commerce Coastal and Geodetic Survey.

The tower, only temporary, was topped by intricate instruments to tie in with other similar towers so that the location could be definitely fixed.

After the towers had been erected everything was ready for the observing party, which consisted of one observer, two or three assistants, and six or seven light keepers. Observations to determine the approximate difference of elevation of the various stations were made in the afternoon, but all measurements of horizontal angles by which the distance between stations are computed were made at night. An instrument called a theodolite was used to measure angles.

Since points observed were 50 miles or more away, a light keeper was posted at each station to be observed upon. In the afternoon he showed a heliograph at each station, and at night a specially constructed electric light run by dry batteries was shown. The total cost of triangulation party per day it was estimated could run as high as \$75.00.

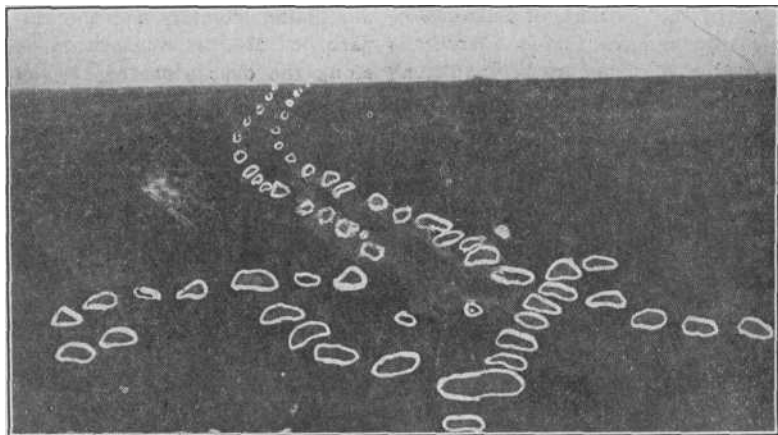
Next time you are on top of Medicine Butte, look for the cement markers made by the geodetic party.-Aug. 1, 1935.

### Government Trails

Another interesting thing which few people notice is the old Government Trails. Many of these can still be seen, and from the looks of the many beaten paths a great many hours were spent on these roads, and no telling all the hardship that has been encountered not only in a day, but for a great many years, by both whites and Indians.

An ordinary red colored rock that was in Section 14 of De Grey Township caused a great deal of comment, because of the fact that an

imprint of a human hand and two crow feet could be seen on the top. Recently this rock has been removed from its natural surroundings, thus spoiling part of its historical value to the people of the county and also South Dakota. No one seems to know what has become of this rock which has probably been in that same place for hundreds of years. (It would be fitting to place a MARKER on the old Schooner trail.)-B.L.H.

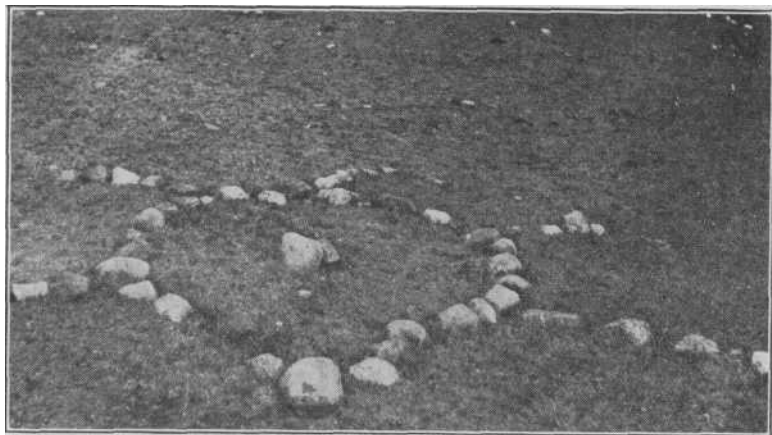


## Medicine Butte

About 5  $\frac{1}{2}$  miles southwest of Blunt there are some hills called Medicine Butte. This high peak is the highest for many miles east of the Missouri river. A very pretty view of Medicine creek is visible from this prominence. On the east side there is a large landslide which does not show so plainly now but for a few years when fresh looked like plowed ground, at least from a distance. On the northwest side there is a rock snake, 2 feet wide and less than a block long. Many war-like tribes lived in this vicinity. When Indians near here found any of the other tribes or white people on their territory they attempted to capture them, and if successful, would line their warriors up on each side of the snake and require the captives to run the gauntlet (over the snake). If the fugitive came through alive he was given freedom, but this did not often happen.

This snake is hard to locate because stones have been rolled out by cattle and careless people. Many Indian graves may be found here also. On the east side is a large grave, thought to be the chief's. If it is we might find signs of his horse, dog, and weapons buried with him (should we dig down). This would enable him to ride and hunt in the "Happy Hunting Grounds." Some of the dead were buried sitting up facing the east. Sometimes they buried the beads and ornaments with the Indian women. For 3 or 4 feet down they wedged rocks down tight so the enemies or wild animals couldn't get them out.

-Centerview School.



## Snake Butte

On Snake Butte there is a long stone snake which was made by the Indians. This is one of the stories told about it. When the Indians lived here they had many battles. The Indian chief was hurt and wanted to get back to his tepee. For every drop of blood they put a stone which makes this stone snake which is over an eighth of a mile long. After the chief got to his tepee he died and some think he is buried within the iron fence which is there now. The fence surrounds a stone turtle.

-Annis Alleman, Grade V, Centerview.

## Fr. Ambrose Mattingly O. S. B.

Reverend Father Ambrose Mattingly O. S. B., better known to most people as just Fr. Ambrose, came to Stephan Mission, south of Highmore September 30th, 1888. He was only a cleric then but was ordained the following June 17th by the famous Indian Apostle Most Rev. Bishop M. Marty.

Fr. Pius Boehm was then Superintendent at the Mission and Fr. Ambrose immediately took over the job of teacher and boys' disciplinarian. Besides his duties at Stephan his missionary work took him far and wide. Aside from the work he did with the Indians on the Crow Creek and Lower Brule Reservations he cared for the white missions at Harrold, Highmore, Blunt, Arnott and DeGrey.

Since 1934 he has assisted Fr. Silvester Eiseman O. S. B. in his work among the Yankton Indians at Marty, South Dakota.

Fr. Ambrose has spent forty-eight years on the Dakota prairies and although not all of them have been spent in or near Hughes County, he has many friends and acquaintances here. He arrived here the fall af.



ter that big event which marks time in the lives of so many old timers, the "Big Blizzard of '88."

Sun, rain, cold and snow found the good Father on the road with his trusty team "Pet" and "Buck" which will be remembered by so many people. If a call came there was no hesitation on his part to start and at least try to reach his destination.

One of Fr. Ambrose's experiences in South Dakota was one he had with the "Old Muddy" January 1, 1914. He was crossing the river on the ice near De Grey when his team went into an air hole. They were drowned and it was with great difficulty that he saved himself. At first he was unable to pull himself out upon the ice but at last he hit upon the idea of letting his mitten freeze to the ice and then used that to hold to. He took a six mile walk afterwards.

January 13th, 1916 the main building at Stephan Mission burned.

Fr. Ambrose traveled many weary miles in his little Ford in the cause of his beloved Indian children. He at last succeeded in collecting enough money and Marty Hall, the new main building was erected. At all times his interest was in the Indians both large and small.

I am asked to state that Fr. Ambrose is one of the few men whom Kipling's "If" fits to perfection.

-Zetta Laughlin.

## Crow Hunt

The following explanation of a Crow Hunt is given by Harry Piner, a warden with the Game and Fish Department.

In the latter part of the afternoon, watch which way the crow flies. They collect at night usually in some trees. This is called the Crow Roost. Have your captain bring in his men quietly under the trees late in the twilight and if the men are quiet they can start to shoot while the crows are still roosting and can continue to shoot as they start to fly away. As many as 200 crows have been killed in a single expedition of this kind. Stuffed crows and owls make good decoys. Crow calls are quite effective. Imitation gravel containing dynamite is sometimes suspended in tree roosts. When picked by the crows it explodes, sometimes killing large numbers.

Franklin Hyde, who has shot over 100 coyotes from a plane in this vicinity of the state, has had some pictures taken that show the hunters and the plane they use, along with a number of coyote skins. Pilot Robert Wiley operates the plane, while Mr. Hyde does the shooting. They use a Curaice Wright Pucher plane with the propeller back of the wings. The plane is not speedy and has a slow landing speed, which helps the hunters after spotting the coyotes.

-Daily Dakotan, Dec. 14, 1936.

Note: Since the above was printed Franklin has added another 100 pelts to his credit. The banner day slaughter was 9 coyotes, killed near Faith.

## Winter of 1935-36

For about six weeks beginning early in January the county and state passed through the severest stretches of cold weather that weather records tell. During that period the thermometer got above zero for only a few hours. Temperatures dropped as low as 40° below by private instruments in some parts of the county. The coldest shown by the government thermometer was 25° below on Feb. 5.

While the snowfall for the county perhaps did not exceed a foot, the wind repeatedly filled side roads with impassable drifts. Even the trunk highways were kept open with difficulty. Train service was irregular being stopped entirely once for three days.

Over the state in places conditions were even worse. Clyde Ice left Pierre on Sunday, Feb. 16, to go to isolated communities in the northwestern part of the state but was forced to land his ski-equipped plane at the Bill Horton ranch 31/2 miles southeast of Dalzell in eastern Meade county. 3 days later he was in service scouting via air from the Rapid airport. Fred Hight, Belle Fourche and Walt Williams, Spearfish, were engaged in similar service. Families in distress were asked to wave a black rag or build a smudge out away from the buildings to attract the attention of the fliers. Snow was much deeper in the western and eastern parts of the state than here, consequently traffic was much worse blocaded. Radio accounts stated that stores, churches and schools were being opened in parts of Lincoln county on February 21, the first time for several days.

(An extract from the Blunt Advocate of Feb. 14, 1936.)

## Hughes County Lakes

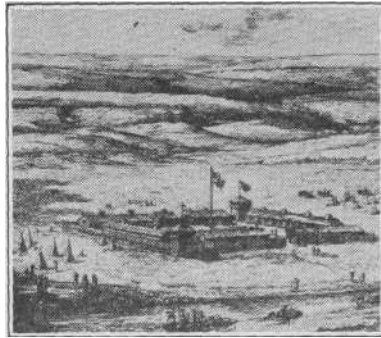
Due to dam building activity on the part of the Government a goodly number of well filled lakes are in evidence over the County. This impounding of run-off waters is evidently a wise program for this part of the country. Below is listed the location and water acre capacity of our dam lakes:

NW1 $\frac{1}{4}$ -29-112-76:	14 acres	13-112-75:	25 acres
6-112-76:	33.59 acres	13-112-74:	22 acres
13-111-75:	7.81 acres	16-112-74:	35 acres
36-111-78:	36.72 acres	22-112-74:	3 acres
5-111-76:	18.55 acres	31-110-75:	2 acres
9-110-76:	2.00 acres	16-112-76:	13 acres
24-25-111-77:	11.06 acres	15-112-76:	15 acres
30-111-78:	37.06 acres	18-112-74:	103.79 acres is stocked with croppies.

Total water acre capacity of the above is 379.57 acres.

There are three dams on the reservation also.

-D. W. Chesley, Highway Superintendent, 1937.



## The Gateway to the West Empire

### **Historic Fort Pierre**

Fort Pierre, historians tell us, is the most interesting point in the central northwest. It was here, in 1743, that Verendrye placed the leaden plate and took possession of the Northwest for France. LaRaye visited here in 1802, and it was here Lewis and Clark held council in 1804.

### **First White Settlement**

The permanent settlement began in 1817 when Joseph LaFrambois built Fort Teton at the mouth of Bad river, which was taken over by the Columbian Fur Co. in 1822 and rebuilt as Fort Tecumseh. And at about this time the French Company erected an opposition post on the opposite side of Bad river.

### **First July Fourth Observance**

In 1825 the Peace and Intercourse Commission, headed by Gen. Atkinson and Major O'Fallon, arrived at Fort Tecumseh with an escort of 500 officers and men and concluded a treaty of peace with the Oglala, and also had the first formal celebration of Independence Day in South Dakota.

### **First Steamboat Up Missouri**

The first steamboat, "The Yellowstone," navigated to this point in 1831, and in 1832 a new post, Fort Pierre Chouteau, was completed, and for a quarter of a century was the center of the continental fur trade.

## North Western Railway from Pierre to Rapid City

I wish to advise that the cost of the bridge over the Missouri River between Pierre and Ft. Pierre, including approaches, was \$945,000.00.

The cost of the passenger station and office building was a little under \$90,000.00.

Work on the bridge was started early in 1906 and completed for the passage of trains in November 1907.

The Pennsylvania Steel Company furnished and erected the superstructure and Arthur McMullen of New York City had the contract for the foundations, that is, substructure.

It was necessary to construct and maintain a pile bridge over the Missouri River, during the time the river was frozen up in the winter of 1905-1906 and 1906-1907, in order to transport all of the construction material, ties, rail, bridge material, lumber, etc., for use in constructing the easterly eighty miles of the line. The material for the westerly ninety miles was shipped to and handled from Rapid City, that is to say, the easterly eighty miles of the line was built from Ft. Pierre west and the westerly ninety miles from Rapid City east, the two sections having been joined just west of Philip, about June 1907.

In addition to the bridge and depot, it was necessary to build what is known as the high line for the easterly approach to the bridge and, also, to build a considerable yard, roundhouse and engine terminal at East Pierre.

C. F. DIKE, Vice Pres., & Chief Engineer.

## Historian Reports On First Celebration

South Dakota's first Fourth of July celebration was staged in Fort Pierre 112 years ago-in 1825, according to Doane Robinson, former state historian.

Says Robinson: "In 1825 Gen. Henry Atkinson and Dr. Benj. O'Fallon were sent up the Missouri river with an escort of 476 men to make trade treaties with the Indians. When July 4th arrived they found themselves at Fort Pierre and resolved to stage a typical eastern celebration. Orations and a display of fireworks were awe inspiring to the natives, who participated. "The Oglala Sioux feasted on the flesh of thirteen dogs-boiled in seven kettles much done."

The second Fourth of July celebration recorded in South Dakota was held across the river from Fort Pierre ten years later. It was staged by the John C. Fremont expedition.-Fort Pierre Times.

## Old Farm Island Residents Return

The four Marsh brothers, Roy and Guy, of Prior, Montana, and Fay and Glenn of Rapid City, sons of F. B. Marsh, who is well known by the pioneer residents of this vicinity, paid a visit to Farm Island yesterday for the first time since they left the island in 1907, having lived there for fourteen years. These boys, were raised on the island and were looking for old landmarks of their farm home, and found that their old log house was still standing near where the Izaak Walton club-house is now. They recalled the time when the ten foot wall of water came upon the island in 1902 and necessitated their family to hang on tree limbs until the water receded, having suffered the loss of hundreds of chickens and other livestock, including several little coyotes.

They also stated that their education while living on the island was